

(b) if so, whether the Government has also released Rs. 7 crore out of Rs. 14.70 crore for taking up construction of buildings to house the police stations;

(c) whether the State Government of A.P. has been asked to utilise the funds for modernisation of the police force and construction of the buildings to house the police stations;

(d) if so, the extent to which the State Government utilised the funds; and

(e) whether any concrete schemes in this regard have been received from the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme 'Modernisation of State Police Forces', funds are not available for the construction of police station/outpost buildings. However, the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 204.00 lakhs for the State of Andhra Pradesh for the construction of buildings of police stations/outposts. A sum of Rs. 30.60 lakhs was released in favour of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard during the year 1996-97.

(c) to (e) The funds released are meant to be utilised for the specified purpose. The State Governments receiving the funds are required to furnish utilisation certificates in due course. Such certificates are awaited from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the instant cases.

Periodical Review on Social Legislation

5938. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes against women are on the increase in spite of several measures taken in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Commission for Women, had suggested periodical review of this social legislation to assess their implementation of bringing about necessary reforms to meet the challenges of the times;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to formulate rules in such a manner so as to see that the rape cases come up before the women judges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) According to information available, the incidents of

crime against women during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 numbered 98948, 105413 and 105459 (provisional) respectively. 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to check crime. The State Governments need to do more to sensitise their police forces, create awareness among the public and take such socio-economic measures as are necessary to check crimes against women. The Central Government has been addressing the State Governments in this regard from time to time.

(c) and (d) The Department of Women & Child in the Government of India, in consultation with the National Commission for Women and others, keeps reviewing the relevant laws to identify deficiencies therein and bring forward necessary amendments or new legislations. Apart from a number of amendments under consideration, section 304-B has been added to the I.P.C. to deal with dowry deaths and section 113B has been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act enabling courts to presume the guilt of husband/relative in connection with dowry death.

(e) and (f) The administration of justice in the District/Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of the State Governments/High Courts. It is for the concerned State Governments/High Courts to set up such courts according to their requirements.

Open Sale of Foodgrains

5939. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains are sold to the private traders just above the economic cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government considered the sale of wheat and rice directly to consumers in small packets of 5 or 10 Kg. under the open market scheme, eliminating middleman and hoarders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Sale of wheat and rice under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) has been stopped with effect from 1.4.97. Upto 31.3.97 foodgrains were sold at different places at different rates, which were determined after taking into account various factors like freight ex-North, market rate of wheat, wholesale rates of wheat at major centres in UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi and the levy price of rice etc.

(c) No, Sir.